Legal hindrance in FDI

1529. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether archaic legal system in a hindrance for foreign direct investment and fast track economic growth in the country; and

(b) the measures taken to change such economic laws early to attract international agencies, financial institutions and foreign investors for foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The country's legal system has not hindered foreign direct investment. However, legislative reforms, including economic legislations, are carried out in a need-based manner to provide appropriate legal support to ongoing economic reforms and make investment climate more attractive.

Diversification of Activities by MMTC

1530. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has been operating in various States;

(b) whether the MMTC has diversified its activities;

(c) if so, since when;

(d) whether the MMTC has started earning profit after diversification;

(e) if so, to what extent, year-wise; and

(f) the specific steps taken for the peripheral development of the areas where MMTC has been operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Sir, major areas in which MMTC has been operating in various States are menerals, metals fertilizer raw material, finished fertilizers and precious metals.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. MMTC has diversified its activities during the last 3 years wherein sustained trade operations in Agro, Coal and hydro-carbon products have been added to its portfolio.